Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph on Page 5 beginning at line 7 as follows:

A preferred nucleic acid molecule according to the invention is one where the first polypeptide of the fusion protein comprises the following amino acid sequence of the autoprotease N^{pro} of CSFV (see also EMBL database accession number X87939) (amino acids 1 to 168, reading from N-terminal to the C-terminal direction)

[[(1)-]]MELNHFELLYKTSKQKPVGVEEPVYDTAGRPLFGNPSEVHPQSTLKLPHDRGRGDIRTTLRDLPR
KGDCRSGNHLGPVSGIYIKPGPVYYQDYTGPVYHRAPLEFFDEAQFCEVTKRIGRVTGSDGKLYHIYVCVD
GCILLKLAKRGTPRTLKWIRNFTNCPLWVTSC-(168), (SEQ ID NO: 1)

or the amino acid sequence of a derivative thereof with autoproteolytic activity.

Please amend the paragraph on Page 9 beginning at line 27 as follows:

The plasmid NPC-pET is constructed for expression of an N^{pro}-C fusion protein in a bacterial host. The expression vector used is the vector pET11a (F.W. Studier et al., Methods. Enzymol. 185 (1990), 60-89). The natural structural gene (from the CSFV RNA genome) for the N^{pro}-C fusion protein is cloned into this expression vector. The structural gene for this fusion protein is provided by PCR amplification from a viral genome which has been transcribed into cDNA (and cloned into a vector). Moreover the first 16 amino acids of the natural N^{pro}-sequence (SEQ ID NO: 3 MELNHFELLYKTSKQK) are replaced by a 10 amino acid-long oligo-histidine purification aid (SEQ ID NO: 4 MASHHHHHHH). The resulting construct is called NPC-pET. The sequence of the N^{pro} portion and the autoproteolytic cleavage site of the N^{pro}-C fusion protein encoded on the NPC-pET has the following structure, with the cleavage site being located between the amino acids Cys168 and Ser(169):

MASHHHHHHH*P*VGVEEPVYDTAGRPLFGNPSEVHPQSTLKLPHDRGRGDIRTTLRDLPRKGDCRSGNHLGP
VSGIYIKPGPVYYQDYTGPVYHRAPLEFFDEAQFCEVTKRIGRVTGSDGKLYHIYVCVDGCILLKLAKRGT
PRTLKWIRNFTNCPLWVTSC(168)**S(169)DDGAS-(nucleocapsid protein C)** (SEQ ID NO: 2)

Please amend the paragraph on Page 12 beginning at line 8 as follows:

The plasmid NP6-pET is constructed for expression of the N^{pro}-hIL6 fusion protein. pET11a (F.W. Studier et al., Methods. Enzymol. 185 (1990), 60-89) is used as expression vector. Firstly a fusion protein consisting of N^{pro} and the CSFV nucleocapsid protein is cloned into this expression vector (see Example 1). The structural gene for this fusion protein is provided by a PCR. This entails the first 16 aa of the natural N^{pro} sequence (SEQ ID NO: 3 MELNHFELLYKTSKQK) being replaced by a 10 aa-long oligo-histidine purification aid (SEQ ID NO: 4 MASHHHHHHH).

Please amend the paragraph on Page 12 beginning at line 26 as follows:

5´- ATAATTACTA GTTGTGCTCC AGTACCTCCA GGTGAAG -3´ (SEQ ID NO: 5)

Please amend the paragraph on Page 12 beginning at line 28 as follows:

5´- ATAATTGGAT CCTCGAGTTA TTACATTTGC CGAAGAGCCC TCAGGC -3´ (SEQ ID NO: 6)

Please amend the paragraph on Page 13 beginning at line 8 as follows:

The sequence of the PCR fragment (593 bp) with the structural gene for hIL6 is depicted below (read in the N-terminal to C-terminal direction). The restriction cleavage sites are underlined, and the first codon of hIL6 (Ala) and the stop codon are printed in bold:

ATAATTACTAGTTGT**GCT**CCAGTACCTCCAGGTGAAGATTCTAAAGATGTAGCCGCCCCACACAGACAGCC
ACTCACCTCTTCAGAACGAATTGACAAACAAATTCGGTACATCCTCGACGGCATCTCAGCCCTGAGAAAGG
AGACATGTAACAAGAGTAACATGTGTGAAAGCAGCAAAGAGGCACTGGCAGAAAACAACCTGAACCTTCCA
AAGATGGCTGAAAAAGATGGATGCTTCCAATCTGGATTCAATGAGGAGACTTGCCTGGTAAAAATCATCAC
TGGTCTTTTGGAGTTTGAGGTATACCTAGAGTACCTCCAGAACAGATTTGAGAGTAGTGAGGAACAAGCCA
GAGCTGTGCAGATGAGTACAAAAGTCCTGATCCAGTTCCTGCAGAAAAAGGCAAAGAATCTAGATGCAATA
ACCACCCCTGACCCAACCACAAATGCCAGCCTGCTGACGAAGCTGCAGGCACAGAACCAGTGGCTGCAGGA
CATGACAACTCATCTCATTCTGCGCAGCTTTAAGGAGTTCCTGCAGTCCAGCCTGAGGGCTCTTCGGCAAA
TG**TAA**TAACTCGAGGATCCAATTAT (SEQ ID NO: 7)

Please amend the paragraph on Page 13 beginning at line 21 as follows:

The sequence of the N^{pro}-hIL6 fusion protein (347 amino acids, of which 162 amino acids for the N^{pro} portion and 185 amino acids for the hIL6 portion), encoded on NP6-pET is depicted below, with the hIL6 sequence being printed in bold:

MASHHHHHHH*P*VGVEEPVYDTAGRPLFGNPSEVHPQSTLKLPHDRGRGDIRTTLRDLPRKGDCRSGNHLGP
VSGIYIKPGPVYYQDYTGPVYHRAPLEFFDEAQFCEVTKRIGRVTGSDGKLYHIYVCVDGCILLKLAKRGT
PRTLKWIRNFTNCPLWVTSC**APVPPGEDSKDVAAPHRQPLTSSERIDKQIRYILDGISALRKETCNKSNMC**
ESSKEALAENNLNLPKMAEKDGCFQSGFNEETCLVKIITGLLEFEVYLEYLQNRFESSEEQARAVQMSTKV
LIQFLQKKAKNLDAITTPDPTTNASLLTKLQAQNQWLQDMTTHLILRSFKEFLQSSLRALRQM (SEQ ID NO: 8)

Please amend the paragraph on Page 15 beginning at line 23 as follows:

Oligonucleotide 1 ("N-terminal"):

5´- ATAATTACTA GTTGTTGTGA TCTGCCTCAA ACCCACAGCC -3´ (SEQ ID NO: 9)

Please amend the paragraph on Page 15 beginning at line 25 as follows:

Oligonucleotide 2 ("C-terminal"):

5´- ATAATTGGAT CCTCGAGTTA TTATTCCTTA CTTCTTAAAC TTTCTTGCAA G -3´ (SEQ ID NO: 10)

Please amend the paragraph on Page 16 beginning at line 1 as follows:

The sequence of the PCR fragment (533 bp) with the structural gene for IFNα2B is depicted below. The restriction cleavage sites are underlined, and the first codon of IFNα2B (Cys) and the stop codon are printed in bold:

ATAATTACTAGTTGT**TGT**GATCTGCCTCAAACCCACAGCCTGGGTAGCAGGAGGACCTTGATGCTCCTGGC
ACAGATGAGGAGAATCTCTCTTTTCTCCTGCTTGAAGGACAGACATGACTTTGGATTTCCCCAGGAGGAGT
TTGGCAACCAGTTCCAAAAGGCTGAAACCATCCCTGTCCTCCATGAGATGATCCAGCAGATCTTCAATCTC
TTCAGCACAAAGGACTCATCTGCTGCTTGGGATGAGACCCTCCTAGACAAATTCTACACTGAACTCTACCA
GCAGCTGAATGACCTGGAAGCCTGTGTGATACAGGGGGTGGGGGTGACAGAGACTCCCCTGATGAAGGAGG
ACTCCATTCTGGCTGTGAGGAAATACTTCCAAAGAATCACTCTCTATCTGAAAGAGAAGAAATACAGCCCT
TGTGCCTGGGAGGTTGTCAGAGCAGAAATCATGAGATCTTTTTCTTTGTCAACAAACTTGCAAGAAAGTTT
AAGAAGTAAGGAA**TAA**TAACTCGAGGATCCAATTAT (SEQ ID NO: 11)

Please amend the paragraph on Page 16 beginning at line 13 as follows:

The sequence of the N^{pro}-IFNα2B fusion protein (327 aa, of which 162 N^{pro} and 165 IFNα2B) encoded on NPI-pET is depicted below, with the IFNα2B sequence being printed in bold (depicted in the direction from the N-terminus to the C-terminus):

MASHHHHHHH*P*VGVEEPVYDTAGRPLFGNPSEVHPQSTLKLPHDRGRGDIRTTLRDLPRKGDCRSGNHLGP
VSGIYIKPGPVYYQDYTGPVYHRAPLEFFDEAQFCEVTKRIGRVTGSDGKLYHIYVCVDGCILLKLAKRGT
PRTLKWIRNFTNCPLWVTSC**CDLPQTHSLGSRRTLMLLAQMRRISLFSCLKDRHDFGFPQEEFGNQFQKAE**
TIPVLHEMIQQIFNLFSTKDSSAAWDETLLDKFYTELYQQLNDLEACVIQGVGVTETPLMKEDSILAVRKY
FQRITLYLKEKKYSPCAWEVVRAEIMRSFSLSTNLQESLRSKE (SEQ ID NO: 12)